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USSR SURVEY
20 AUGUST 1953

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Korea

G L O B A L A F F A I R S

KOREAN TRUCE: Malenkov's Promises of Soviet Aid; Liberation Anniversary

Following the record volume of broadcasts during the week of the truce, attention to the Korean issue dropped off sharply; however, the publicity devoted to the eighth liberation anniversary occasioned an increase during the past week. Stress in the anniversary and other comment continues to be on the theme that the truce is a "victory for the camp of peace." There is virtually no substantive comment on the forthcoming political conference.

Soviet Aid: Following the announcement in Malenkov's 8 August speech that the Soviet Union would allocate one billion rubles for the restoration of the Korean economy, assertions of Korean gratitude pervade the comment. Thus, Kim Il Sung's message of greeting on the occasion of the liberation anniversary offers profuse thanks for the aid. With this stress on the current aid there is considerably less emphasis than in previous years on Soviet assistance during and after World War II. (Pyongyang and Peking also give considerable attention to Soviet material and moral assistance, and unlike Moscow output, broadcasts dwell on the rehabilitation task in North Korea.)

Post-Truce Problems: There continues to be a lack of specificity in references to the political conference. Thus, while avoiding any implications of the nature of the meeting, the 15 August PRAVDA editorial observes that "the conference can only be successful if it is conducted on the basis of equality, mutual understanding and with good will on both sides." While there is considerable attention to the U.S.-South Korean treaty as imposing a regime of occupation for an indefinite period, thwarting unification, etc., Moscow does not go so far as Peking in denouncing the agreement as an attempt to "torpedo the political conference." Both the draft treaty and the 16-nation declaration are exploited in charges that the United States is pursuing a unilateral policy of force.

There has been no anticipatory propaganda regarding the Soviet position at the special General Assembly session. While the subject of Chinese membership in the United Nations is discussed in the context of Anglo-American disagreement, the issue is not linked to the political conference. There is no overt attempt to present the Nationalist representatives at the U.N. as discredited.

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